

## From the Editors

It has been observed often that the pursuit of natural history encompasses a wide range of areas. This diversity is nowhere more apparent than in this issue of *The Victorian Naturalist*. Here we have papers on grasslands, the behaviour of birds and mammals in wooded areas, the dietary preferences of one reptilian species, as well as observations on another, and comments on small mammals. This is biodiversity, indeed.

This issue also demonstrates another long-running feature of the FNCV's journal. *The Victorian Naturalist* has long provided an avenue to publish natural history research that either includes historical aspects of the subject matter, or takes history as the major focus. The Editors are always pleased to include articles that explain how the state of play in any natural science area was reached. That is not to say that we turn away from what is the main thrust of the journal – the publication of research in natural history – but, rather that we recognise that intellectual disciplines are constantly changing, and some account of these changes also should be recognised.

In this issue we offer two papers that bear out this point. There is a paper that considers a major change that has taken place in natural history studies. In addition, the paper on native grasslands on the Mornington Peninsula is an excellent example of the use of history as an element within a good natural history study.

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